

Message Text

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17

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 AID-05

VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 W

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O 010930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7940

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 0537

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. IN ABSENCE OF PRES BANDA I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TODAY WITH
MINISTER OF STATE MUWALO ON ABOVE SUBJECT. HE LISTENED ATTENT-
ATIVELY, AND I THOUGHT SYMPATHETICALLY. I RECALLED TO HIM THAT
ON OCCASION OF EXPULSION OF ASIANS FROM UGANDA, MALAWI HAD OFFER-
ED TO TAKE SOME OF THEM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SAME MIGHT BE
TRUE IN THIS SITUATION. ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO COMMENT TO MY TENT-
ATIVE SUGGESTIONS AS TO VARIOUS TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CATE-
GORIES AMONG THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHOSE SKILLS MIGHT WELL
BE USED IN MALAWI, HIS ATTITUDE WAS CORDIAL AND HE EXPRESSED
GENERAL SYMPATHY FOR THE REFUGEES. AS I EXPECTED
HE SAID THAT THE QUESTION WOULD BE ONE FOR PRESIDENT BANDA
TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE, AND I DOUBT THAT WE WILL RECEIVE ANY
FURTHER WORD UNTIL AFTER BANDA'S RETURN ON MAY 10.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRES BANDA DID OFFER TO TAKE ASIAN REFUGEES
FROM UGANDA, I UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE END MALAWI ACCEPTED ONLY A
HANDFUL. IN THE CASE OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES I WOULD SAY
THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE GOM WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE A
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NUMBER OF TECHNICALLY OR PROFESSIONALLY-TRAINED PERSONS WITH

A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. THERE IS A NEED HERE FOR
ENGINEERS, LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, AGRIC TECHNICIANS, NURSES,
TOBACCO EXPERTS, SUGAR TECHNICIANS, AND PROBABLY OTHERS. I
THINK THAT THE MOST WE MIGHT HOPE FOR WOULD BE OFFERS OF JOBS
FOR TWO-THREE YEARS ON CONTRACT WITH THE GOM, WITH LITTLE PROSPECT
FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN MALAWI. I SAY THIS LOOKING AT THE
PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IN THE COUNTRY WITH REGARD TO ALL PERSONS
OF ASIAN ORIGIN WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT IMMEDIATELY THREATENING
IS NOT FAVORABLE FOR THE LONG TERM.

STEVENSON

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